

Appl. No. 09/804,954
Amdt. dated June 18, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

List of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid encoding a hek-L protein capable of binding hek and affecting the growth and differentiation of cells expressing hek, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 80% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of nucleotides 83-796, 83-745, 140-796, and 140-745 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid encoding a hek-L protein capable of binding hek and affecting the growth and differentiation of cells expressing hek, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 80% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of nucleotides 28-630, 28-573, 94-630, and 94-573 of SEQ ID NO:3.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid encoding a human hek-L protein capable of binding hek and affecting the growth and differentiation of cells expressing hek, wherein said hek-L comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-202 and 1-219 of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 1-160 and 1-179 of SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid encoding a fusion protein comprising a hek-L polypeptide that binds hek and affecting the growth and differentiation of cells expressing hek, and an Fc polypeptide, wherein said hek-L comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-202 of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 1-160 of SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 8 (previously amended): An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to claim 1.

Claim 9 (previously amended): An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to claim 3.

Claim 10 (previously amended): An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to claim 5.

Claim 11 (previously amended): An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to claim 7.

Claim 12 (original): A process for preparing a hek-L polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell transformed with a vector according to claim 8 under conditions promoting expression of hek-L, and recovering the hek-L polypeptide from the culture.

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Claim 13 (original): A process for preparing a hek-L polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell transformed with a vector according to claim 9 under conditions promoting expression of hek-L, and recovering the hek-L polypeptide from the culture.

Claim 14 (original): A process for preparing a hek-L polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell transformed with a vector according to claim 10 under conditions promoting expression of hek-L, and recovering the hek-L polypeptide from the culture.

Claim 15 (original): A process for preparing a hek-L polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell transformed with a vector according to claim 11 under conditions promoting expression of hek-L, and recovering the hek-L polypeptide from the culture.

Claims 16-27 (cancelled)

Claim 28 (withdrawn): A method for binding hek, comprising contacting a hek polypeptide with a hek ligand (hek-L) polypeptide, wherein said hek-L polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:2 in mature form;
- b) a fragment of the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:2;
- c) the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:4 in mature form; and
- d) a fragment of the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:4; wherein said fragment binds hek.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): A method according to claim 28, wherein said hek-L polypeptide is a purified soluble fragment of the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): A method according to claim 28, wherein said hek-L polypeptide is a purified soluble fragment of the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): A method according to claim 28, wherein said hek polypeptide, or said hek-L polypeptide, or both, is expressed on a cell.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): A method according to claim 28, wherein said hek-L is in the form of an oligomer comprising at least two of said hek-L polypeptides.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): A method according to claim 28, wherein said hek-L is attached to a diagnostic or therapeutic agent.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): A method for binding hek, comprising contacting an hek polypeptide with a hek-L polypeptide, wherein said hek-L polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:2 in mature form;
- b) a fragment of the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:2;

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c) the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:4 in mature form; and

d) a fragment of the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:4; wherein said fragment binds hek.

Claim 35 (withdrawn): A method according to claim 34, wherein said hek-L polypeptide is a purified soluble fragment of the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): A method according to claim 34, wherein said hek-L polypeptide is a purified soluble fragment of the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): A method according to claim 34, wherein said hek polypeptide, or said hek-L polypeptide, or both, is expressed on a cell.

Claim 38 (withdrawn): A method according to claim 34, wherein said hek-L is in the form of an oligomer comprising at least two of said hek-L polypeptides.

Claim 39 (withdrawn): A method according to claim 34, wherein said hek-L is attached to a diagnostic or therapeutic agent.